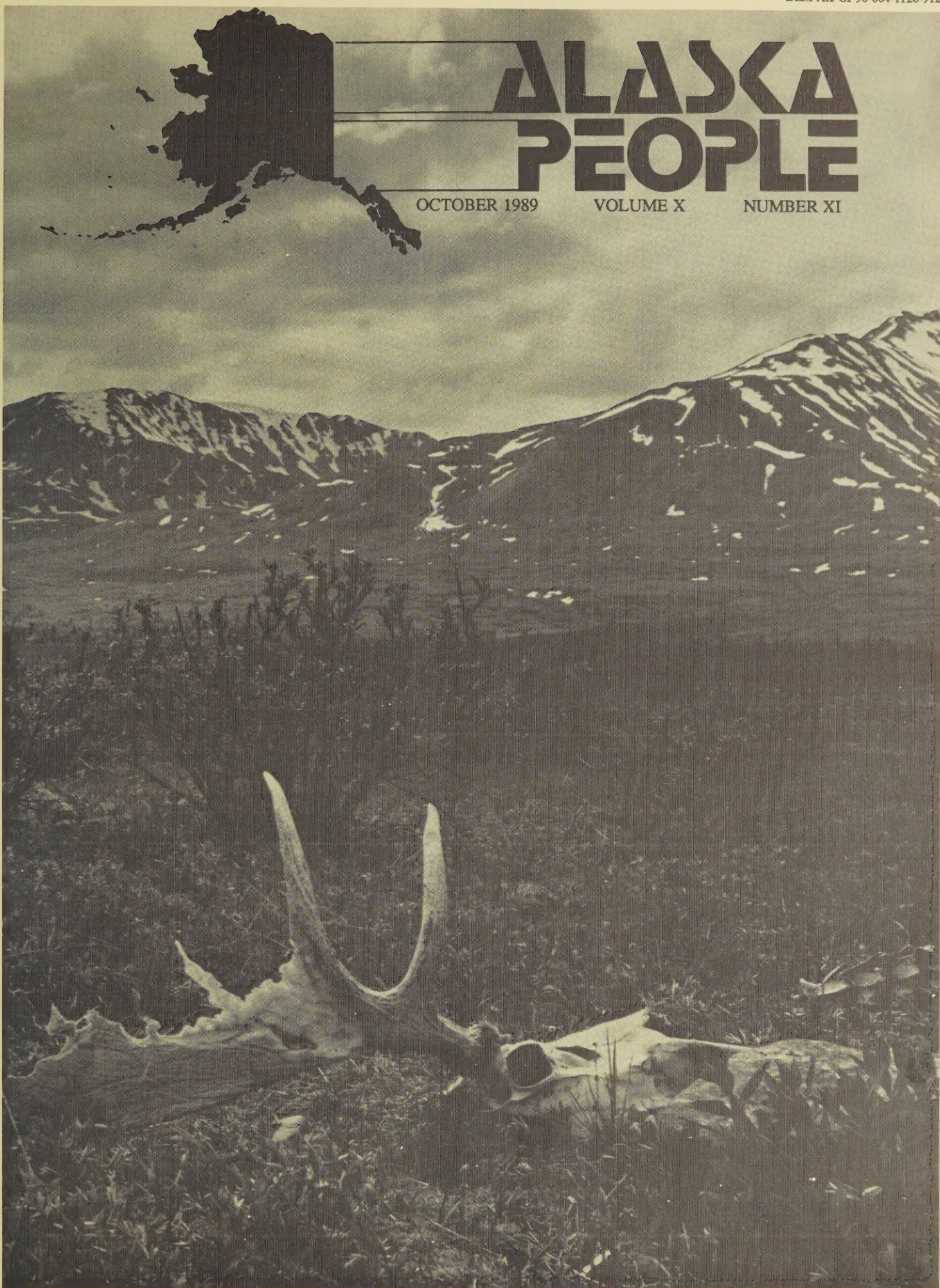


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ALASKA PEOPLE

OCTOBER 1989

VOLUME X

NUMBER XI

IRM Wants to Talk to You

"...we need to reach out to you, our customer, (customers are referred to as "users" in the IRM business) to find out how IRM can help you strengthen your part of BLM's business."

Ray Thomas

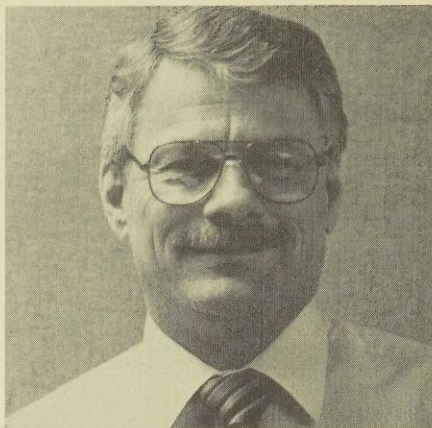
Are you intimidated by GCDB, ALMRS, GIS, LIS, ARD, DATA DICTIONARIES, MAINFRAMES, INTERIM SYSTEMS, TARGET SYSTEMS, and Computerease in general?

Don't be; plunge into it and you'll find friendly folks in the IRM Division waiting to help at every step. Every manager, supervisor and employee of the BLM risks being left behind if he or she waits too long to get involved.

BLM has embarked on a major modernization effort to automate our records system in the BLM offices nationwide. A recent study conducted in states, districts and areas throughout the Bureau showed that the LIS and systems modernization programs are not well understood, even though they are major priorities for BLM.

The Bureau has, for example, budgeted over \$28 million for FY 90 for LIS and modernization. Of this total, Alaska's share is \$1.2 million.

The strong management emphasis on information resources and the need to manage it was reflected in the recent decision to organize IRM as a full Division (new code - AK-940). Our marching orders are to improve responsibility and accountability of information resources management both internally and statewide.



Ray Thomas, Deputy State Director for Information Resources Management

Alaska BLM is currently averaging about 100 new microcomputers (PC's) per year with corresponding increases in hardware, software and related communication support needs. This explosion of personal computers within the Alaska BLM organization clearly points out one of our key problems: how to best utilize this immense increase in information generating and communication power.

The IRM staff has been busy this year addressing this and related problems. Our folks have: developed policy guidelines for microcomputers and Local Area Networks (LAN's); taken the lead in developing nine application systems for the interim Land Information System (LIS) as part of a nationwide effort; converted admin and fire systems to the Honeywell DPS6 Plus; installed the Alaska Data Switch Network (Wide Area Network or WAN) allowing for data exchange between ASO and the field offices; and produced the automated training needs analysis to help define the training needed for our customers.

The next year will be intensive and full for the IRM Division and our customers. We're going to make Interim LIS a reality with the help of your ideas.

Pronounced ha nie' yee, hanaayee is Koyukon Athabaskan for "reporter" or "one who talks."

Got a Problem? The Employee Assistance Program Can Help

by Sylvia Ferrier

The Employee Assistance Program is designed to help employees deal with personal problems that pose a threat to their health, well being, and possibly their jobs.

Human Affairs of Alaska provides confidential, professional assistance to employees and their families in resolving problems that affect their personal lives and/or job performance.

When problems such as alcoholism, drug addiction or use, family or marital conflicts, mental health problems, finances or legal difficulties are identified early enough and when appropriate treatment is provided, many can be successfully resolved.

A Human Affairs counselor can help you identify the nature and extent of the problem and then refer you to the appropriate resource in your community.

Employees are entitled to excused leave of absence for the time they confer with a Human Affairs counselor. However, granting an excused absence depends on the employee signing a written release of information to enable the counselor to inform the supervisor that the employee was participating in the Employee Assistance Program. If an employee wishes to keep a visit confidential, he/she must request annual leave or leave without pay as appropriate. If the counselor refers the employee to an outside treatment facility, the employee must request annual or sick leave, or leave without pay, as appropriate.

Services at Human Affairs are at no cost to you and are available by telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you live in the Anchorage area, call 562-0794 or 562-2812. If you live outside the Anchorage area, dial 1-800-478-2812.

BLM-Anchorage Celebrates Native American Week

by Teresa McPherson

"Today we give special emphasis to special people: Native Americans," BLM State Director Mike Penfold said as he kicked off the celebration for Native American Emphasis Week. The event was held Friday, September 15, at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.

"Today we take time to appreciate the greatness of all Native Americans, and the strength a mixture of different cultures and races brings to us all," added Penfold. "America is often called a melting pot. I don't like the term. Our greatness as a nation comes from the differences of our peoples, and we don't want them melted."

Penfold's introduction was followed by music from the Athabascan Fiddlers, a five-member Native string ensemble from Interior Alaska; a demonstration of Eskimo string games; demonstrations of Native Olympic games of

skill and endurance; and 1989 Golden Poet Award winner Jean Lamont of Bethel presented her award winning poem *Berries Everywhere*.

Special guest of honor for the celebration was Billy Mills, a Sioux Indian and 1964 10,000 meter Olympic Gold Medalist. He was introduced with the honor song by the Lower 48 Intertribal Drum Group.

Mills gave a moving address on Native American cultural values. "For the first six years of my life, I was ashamed of being different," he said. "Today I find strength, beauty, tranquility and PRIDE in being different."

"I ran track for 15 years not to win a medal...but to discover WHO I am. We have the most opportune time in the history of Native peoples to discover who we are."

Mills went on to explain how, as an American Indian, he was forbidden to take his victory lap in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Twenty years later he returned to the sta-

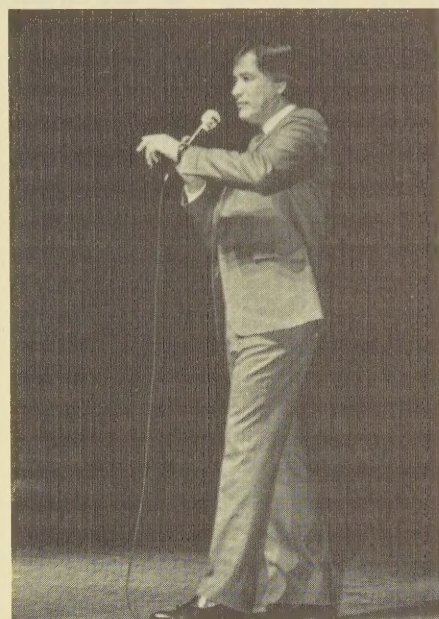


photo by Wayne McPherson

Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills.

dium in Tokyo and was finally able to take his victory lap.

"As Native peoples we can design the next chapter of our lives any way we desire—and I believe we can design a victory lap!"

BLM Meets Public at Annual Hunting and Fishing Day

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

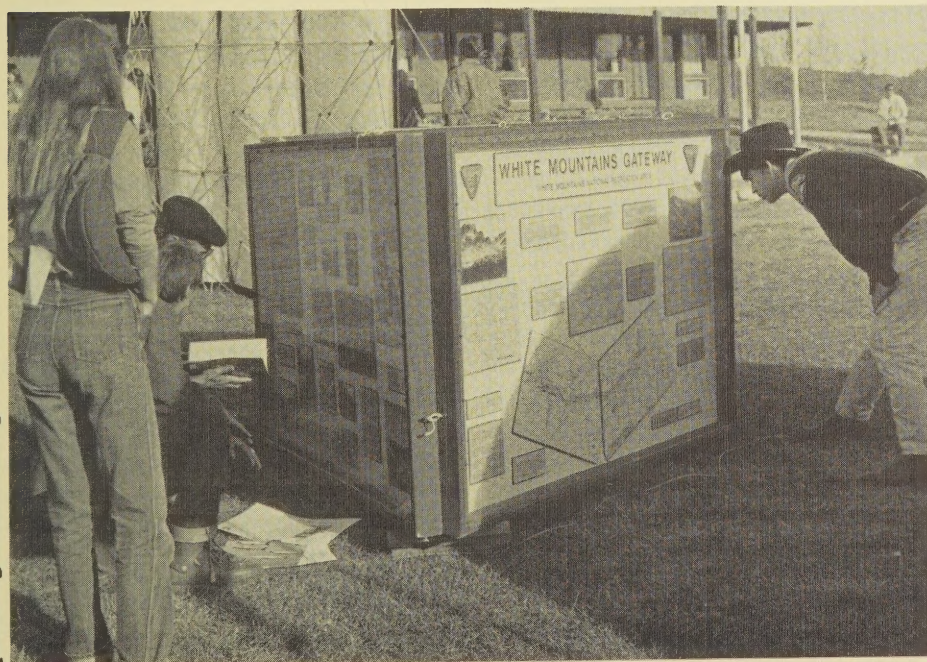


photo by Sharon Durgan Wilson

The Steese/White Mountains District staff and Boy Scouts from the 124th Cavalry Explorer Post 47 which the district cosponsors, were on hand for the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game's annual Hunting and Fishing Day on September 23.

More than 2,000 Fairbanks area residents visited displays and demonstrations by different government agencies, private businesses and nonprofit groups.

BLM's display included information on caribou distribution, improved access to the White Mountains National Recreation Area, wildlife, paleontology, fisheries and cavalry scouts.

Meet Volunteer Jacek Maselko



photo by Dan Gullickson

Volunteer Jacek Maselko examines willows in a study to determine how many branches are being eaten by moose in a habitat study area.

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

"I came to Alaska because I really missed winters," said Jacek Maselko, a recent Student Conservation Association volunteer.

After working in the Steese/White Mountains District all summer, Maselko is staying in Fairbanks to attend college.

Maselko grew up in Wroclaw (pronounced Vrotz-lof), Poland. Each weekend his family hiked seven miles to their mountain cabin. "I like being in the wilderness, away from the city," says Maselko.

He loved winters in the mountains, cross-country skiing, ski-joring with his dog, and trying any other winter sport he could get involved in. "Since my family moved to the United States in 1983, we haven't lived anywhere that had a real good winter."

Maselko's father came to the United States in 1982 to work as a

research chemist at Brandeis University in Boston. He brought the family to America the following year, then moved to Austin to the University of Texas. They now live at West Virginia University at Morgantown, where Maselko's father does chemistry research.

Maselko spent last winter in the South after receiving a four-year scholarship from a private college in Memphis, Tenn.

Maselko worked his first SCA assignment at Glacier National Park in Montana three summers ago. "My second summer I worked on a trail crew in the Tongass National Forest. I wanted to see more of Alaska, so I volunteered for the interior of the state this year."

The Steese/White Mountains District has given Maselko a variety of work experiences since June. "I helped the wildlife section study vegetation and moose browsing habits, and I trapped small mammals. I collected water and fish samples for the fisheries crew," Maselko said, "and did cabin maintenance, trail patrol and recreation inventory for the recreation staff."

Maselko has made a good impression at BLM. "Jacek is an energetic, motivated, self-starting employee who has been a real asset to the district's wildlife program," says wildlife biologist Winston Hobgood. "He's never afraid of assuming responsibility for a project."

In September, Maselko gave up his Memphis scholarship and enrolled at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, volunteering at the Steese/White District between classes.

While studying a heavy load of ecology, chemistry, statistics, English and geography, Maselko lives in an 11-by-14 cabin and job-hunts "for anything I can get," he said. "I'm even going to try dog mushing this winter."

Valuing Diversity

In June Rose Notti of the Fairbanks Support Center, AFS's Rosey Thomas and ASO's Kamilah Rasheed and Ron Smith attended a "Valuing Diversity" Train-the-Trainer session in Portland, Oregon. The objective was to evaluate and recommend the applicability of the program to BLM-Alaska. The group left the session confident that it would be useful.

The program is designed to build an awareness of diversity and develop an understanding and appreciation of differences between people. The session is designed to use three video tapes, guest speakers and exercises which promote group interaction and dialogue between people.

The program objectives include:

- Providing an understanding of the human dynamics that cause problems among people who are different.

- Enabling employees and managers to value differences.

- Generating sensitivity to cultural and gender differences.

- Encouraging each manager and employee to take the initiative for their own development.

It is the intent of BLM-Alaska to equip the employees with the skills necessary to deal with a changing workforce now and in the future.



(standing) Rose Notti, Ron Smith, (seated) Rosey Thomas, Kamilah Rasheed.

AFS Leads Fire Planning Effort

by Sue Mitchell

An Alaska Fire Service team is playing computer games with a very serious purpose. The game is fire management, and the stakes are Alaska's 1991 fire management budget.

Team leader Dave Liebersbach explained: "We use a computer model, adjusted with historic weather and fire data in Alaska from 1980 to 1986. The model generates a fictitious fire, and we tell it what resources it has to fight it.

"Based on such things as the number of smokejumpers or crews, their response time and their rate of line construction, and the historic average weather conditions, the computer predicts how large the fire will get and what the cost will be to put it out."

The model allows planners to experiment with new techniques on computer-modeled fires. For example, a faster aircraft for smokejumpers would reduce their response time to a fire, but may

cost more to operate. Would this reduce the overall cost of fighting fires?

How about reducing the air tanker fleet by one and hiring more smokejumpers instead? The computer program can help answer these kinds of questions and find the most cost-effective means of accomplishing the goal.

The cost of a fire includes the budget for initial attack readiness, actual suppression cost and the change in value of the land because of the fire. It does not factor in the cost of human life and property, which is always top priority to protect.

The more initial attack forces used, the less it costs to put out each individual fire, since fires are put out at smaller acreages. As the budget for initial attack increases, eventually all fires are caught when they first start. After that, increasing the budget further will not result in any less acreage burned.

"Our job is to find the point of least acreage burned for least cost," said Liebersbach.

Liebersbach is part of a national six-member task force formed in 1985 to replace the Bureau's "normal year fire plan" with fire management activity planning similar to other activity planning.

A fire plan must meet requirements for fire management set forth in resource management plans. The fire plan justifies an annual average funding level for fire management.

Each district in the Bureau will develop a plan to submit to Washington Office, through the state offices, by this fall.

Since BLM-Alaska is organized differently, the Alaska Fire Service is developing the fire plan for the entire state.

The AFS team consists of Liebersbach, Brian Fox, Mike Silva, Dan Burrows, Joe Ribar, Mark Jones, Dave Dash and ASO's Russ Hanson.

The computer model being used nationally for this planning effort, the Fire Management Analysis Planning system, was developed in Fairbanks by AFS employee Lloyd Eggan.

It is based on the National Fire Management Analysis System developed some years ago by the U.S. Forest Service.

With Liebersbach's representation on the national task force and the AFS planning team, and Eggan's development of the software, Alaska has a leading role in BLM's nationwide fire management planning.

Salmon Lake Campground Rebuilt

by Sue Mitchell

After years of limited maintenance, the Salmon Lake Campground has been refurbished. Forty miles north of Nome on the Kougarok Road, the campground is on the shore of Salmon Lake, nestled in a valley of the beautiful Kigluaik Mountains.

Built in 1968, the years of exposure to the elements took

their toll. People from Nome and tourists have heavily used the campground while fishing, hunting or sightseeing.

During the winter of 1988, the facility operations shop prefabricated outhouses and tables that could be easily shipped to Nome and transported to the campground for final assembly.

Natural resource specialist Larry Field originally planned the

work for late June, but the road was closed because of unusually heavy snow accumulation.

During the first week of August, maintenance foreman Al Cunningham and carpenters Billy Patterson and Steve Schriber constructed gravel pads for the six campsites and replaced the picnic tables, outhouses and fire rings at each site.

The Three Most Asked LIS Questions

by Ella Wright

The three questions asked most often during the recent LIS briefings were:

How much Burroughs (old main frame computer) data will be converted to LIS, and will errors be corrected before input?

"Eighty-five percent of all the data will be automatically moved to the Prime 6550 for Interim LIS; 100 percent of ALMRS data will transfer," says Patricia Moreno, ALMRS Coordinator.

The Land Legend Description and status groups assigned to ALMRS correct errors on a priority basis. They corrected those errors that would not automatically transfer data first. Moreno said, "Other errors and omissions are corrected according to the criteria set by users and management."

ALMRS groups address errors of recordation: wrong codes, no codes, no legal land descriptions, and so forth. They refer adjudicative errors to the appropriate adjudicative staff. An example of an adjudicative error is when small tracts of land between mining claims are not made available for land selections.

How will we update, refine, or make changes once the new system is installed?

Applications Branch Chief Shari Aikens says, "The new Interim LIS applications are being developed

using a fourth generation programming language under ORACLE. ORACLE is a relational database management system (RDBMS).

This means the survey and ownership status on lands and minerals, and natural and cultural resources information are related components in this "stand alone" system.

Aikens says, "Screens are being developed so that users can add, modify, and delete data.

"One of many advantages of a RDBMS is the ability to add additional data requirements without affecting current processing capabilities."

Who is checking, verifying, and seeing that data input into the system is correct?

LLDs and status teams with the Automated Land and Mineral Record System (ALMRS) collect and check LIS input.

By mid-August, Robert Rinehart's LLD team had collected data on 6,297 townships in the Umat and Kateel Meridians.

Four miscellaneous document examiners (MDEs) on the team review and edit data. Shooting for 98 percent accuracy, the reviewers check everything twice.

In May Ann Richardson's status team (land law examiners) completed "unserialized records" on the Burroughs, and their quality control run showed "zero records unserialized."

This group verifies discrepan-

cies against patents or adjudicative decisions. Now they are checking ALMRS data against current master title plats (MTPs) to develop a prototype for an automated MTP.

Linda Du Lac, Division of Lands and Renewable Resources, coordinates data collection for withdrawals. The Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) contract was written with provisions for quality assurance.

GCDB Coordinator Garth Olson said, "GCDB has clear guidelines on quality assurance and control for the geographic coordinate and survey information that will be put into LIS." Data collection sources for GCDB are survey plats, notes, and MTPs.

Paula Krebs, automated resource data (ARD) coordinator, envisions a data checks and balances system including districts' resources and LIS data specialists.

She says, "Resource specialists will collect, use, own, and be responsible for the quality of the LIS data. SO program leaders for specific resources (wildlife, soils, recreation, etc.) and the ARD coordinator will review and concur on the data and compliance with Bureau management policies and requirements for the State integrated system.

"After the data is automated, the resource specialist will verify its accuracy. Then the SO data administrator will include the verified data in the LIS database."

WELCOME ABOARD (September 1989)

Jeanette Sather-Kelley, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

Harvey L. Trees, Clerk-Typist, ASO Division of Support Services

Laurie Ann Walters, Fire Support Assistant, AFS

MOVING ON (September 1989)

Linda J. McClelland, Computer Assistant, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

Thomas J. Owen, Manager, AFS (retired)

Eugene R. Malesky, Surveying Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Richard E. Oelke, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Dianne M. Thompson, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

On-the-Spot Cash Award

Bill Dawson, Offset Press Operator, ASO Division of Support Services

Glen Nelson, Lead Offset Press Operator, ASO Division of Support Services

Paul Russell, Binding Equipment Operator, ASO Division of Support Services

Danielle Dines, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

Debra Rogers, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

Duane Michalis, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

Richard Barden, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

Applause

Donna Koontz, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Information Resource Management

Sustained Superior Performance Award

Shirley Macke, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Lands and Renewable Resources

Length of Service

10 Year Award

Michael Haskins, Realty Specialist, ASO Division of Lands and Renewable Resources

Tonya Kennedy, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Steve Johnson, Forestry Technician, AFS

Leonard Wehking, Lead Forestry Technician, AFS

Robert Merrill, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

Vincenzo Mazzier, Supervisory Forestry Technician

Tricia Hogervorst-Rukke, Writer/Editor, ASO Public Affairs

Jon Russell, Forestry Technician, AFS

20 Year Award

Benjamin Robinson, Warehouse Worker, AFS

James Ward, Aviation Operations Manager, AFS

Martha Shepherd, Supervisory Librarian, ASO Division of Support Services

Lester Fisher, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

The annual South Central Alaska **Combined Federal Campaign** kicked off October 2 and runs through mid-November.

Please consider a donation to the worthy causes listed in the brochure. Your copy of the donation form is a handy proof for tax deduction purposes.

Ray Thomas is this year's CFC Coordinator. His key workers are:

Lynn Lewis, (910, 912, 915, 918)

John Douts (920)

Wayne Svejnoha (930)

Terry Brokovich (940)

Carl Neufelder (960)

Jim Johnson (970)

Jan Hopster (980)

Marge Wheller (CTF)

BLM-Alaska recently awarded a \$630,000, three-year **GCDB contract** to Infotec Development, Inc. Infotec will collect geographic coordinates for data entry into the PRIME.

Four companies bid on the GCDB contract. Infotec, a Califor-

Workwise or Otherwise

nia based company, was the successful bidder because of its ability to meet technical proposals in the contract. Six of the seven-person Infotec crew are Alaskans.

GCDB will train Infotec to use digitizing and computer equipment as well as BLM generated software. Infotec's crew will begin work around the latter part of October. Their office space will be on the fourth floor of the State Office.

On September 26, the **Child Care** rating panel interviewed the top four of the original nine child care provider applicants.

The panel reached a consensus

and forwarded its recommendation to the Management Initiatives Committee for Federal Executive Association (FEA) approval.

The FEA has approved the main provisions of reimbursable agreements for participating agencies. FEA also endorsed giving employees of initiating agencies enrollment preference for their children.

GSA has extended the Solicitation for Offers on the Child Care space until mid-October.

Hugh O'Brien, who played Wyatt Earp on the television series for many years, came to Fairbanks Sept. 16 to promote his international youth leadership program. The International Kiwanis organization is a major sponsor of the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Foundation, and **Dan Gullickson**, audio/visual specialist with BLM's Fairbanks Support Center, represented the Chena Kiwanis Club as leadership classes in Fairbanks were planned with Mr. O'Brien.

Barracks Staff Gets a Move On, and On...



Tom More (left) and Charles Singleton moving furniture.

by Sue Mitchell

Imagine running a hotel where some customers stay free, others are charged. Where guests stayed almost 18,600 nights in the 240 beds from April to November 1988. Alaska Fire Service barracks manager Tom More has more challenges than the average hotel owner.

The barracks house AFS firefighters, contractors such as pilots and fuelers, visiting firefighters from the Lower 48, and other BLM employees from out of town or out of state.

Employees from out of town on government business are provided free lodging. In-town em-

ployees and contractors must pay \$4.20 per night. The rooms are spartan but clean, with two beds to a room. Two rooms share a bathroom. All the buildings have laundry facilities, and one has a sauna.

The routine of checking people in and out, light maintenance and cleaning keeps the staff of four busy.

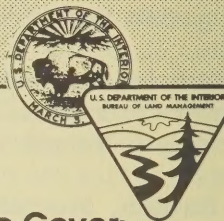
They also cut the grass and do the yard work for the AFS complex of buildings. In between they paint and replace furniture.

The staff has also moved a lot of furniture in the last two years. In 1987 the U.S. Army told AFS to vacate three barracks buildings because they planned to fix them up. Charles Singleton, Bob Rat-tray, Rick Davis, More and other AFS employees moved beds, nightstands, chairs and dressers for 120 rooms into moving vans for winter storage.

But Army funding for the rehab of the buildings fell through, so the barracks workers took all the furniture out of the vans and back into the buildings. That fall they moved the furniture out again and into other buildings across the street. Despite the difficulties, the barracks staff stays cheerful and philosophical.

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Chief - David Vickery
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On the Cover:

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